

The book concludes with two appendixes: Nutritional Values and Amino Acid Composition of Aztec Foods; Empirical Evaluation of Aztec Medicinal Herbs and a section of notes and an extensive bibliography of over 450 references and an index. This book will be fascinating reading for anyone interested in the fall of the Aztec Empire and also the use of herbal medicines by peoples of Mesoamerica.—*Harold W. Keller, Research Associate, BRIT.*

ISELY, DUANE. 1994. **One Hundred and One Botanists.** (ISBN 0-8138-2498-2, hbk). Iowa State University Press, 2121 S State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014. \$32.95. xiv + 351 pp, 6" x 9".

With a talent for edutainment, an academic vernacular speaking and writing style, and often poking into deep crevasses of colleagues' lives, Isely has produced a readable book on a variety of botanists through the development of that science. Starting with Aristotle (384 B.C.–322 B.C.) and ending with Winona Hazel Welch (1896–1991), one would expect that the development of this science would be well traced and reflected by the discussions on discoveries and developments made by each individual. In a large part, this is true, the development of taxonomy of vascular plants, mosses and fungi being fairly well reflected; ecology, plant physiology and even horticulture also receiving coverage by choice of pertinent participants. However, as will always be true of such books where the selection of characters discussed is subject to individual bias, there are huge gaps in botanical science that are hardly mentioned or not covered at all. Algae, the basic plant type, and often the recipient of such neglect by large segments of the botanical community, are hardly mentioned in this book. The only person discussed who could be classified as a phycologist is N. Pringsheim, whose contributions to this discipline are relatively insignificant.

Having established the importance of Schleiden's discoveries on plant cell structure, Isely missed a grand opportunity for continuing the fascinating plant cell story by failing to follow through with later discoveries by individuals showing progress in modern plant cytology. The beginnings of the realization that symbiosis was involved in development of eukaryotic plant cells would have been especially interesting through discussions of the work and hypotheses of Faminzin and/or Mereschkovsky in the early part of this century.

The chapters are often peppered with amusing comments such as the statement that many botanists are "odd ducks" (p. 124) which, I hope, will not offend most of us professional botanists who will accept it in the jocular mood in which it was probably intended. Describing Charles Deam as "correspondence-incontinent," however, is a bit unkind, particularly not knowing whether or not the recipients of his letters were appreciative. Also, on a less amusing note, the revelation is fascinating that Mary Agnes Chase was jailed twice as a suffragette.

There are a few errors that should be noted, namely the family name 'Proteraceae', instead of Proteaceae, on page 111 for the family in which *Banksia* is placed. Also, on page 227 the 'Bradypods' are mentioned in reference to an animal group which I feel sure should be the brachiopods (Brachiopoda).

In general, however, the book is commendable by providing concise surveys of a selected 101 botanists, and it is hoped that Isely will follow through with a second book covering a similar number of other botanists, those forgotten in this first volume.

—*Richard E. Norris.*